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# Arizona Airways

Summer Issue—June 2007

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**41st Annual Arizona Conference-August 1-3, 2007**

**Westin La Paloma Resort, Tucson, AZ**

“This is truly going to be one of the best conferences that Arizona has experienced!”

That’s what the “buzz” is in the respiratory community! We are anticipating record number of exhibitors and attendees at this year’s Arizona Conference, August 1-3 at the five star Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa in Tucson. The 2007 Conference Committee has a line up of outstanding speakers and topics, focusing on mechanical ventilation, as well as great avenues for networking. Exhibit space is selling quickly! Registration now available online at [www.azsrc.com](http://www.azsrc.com). For registration details, see Page 5.

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Great Speakers and Advanced Topics including  
Toni Rodriguez, Ed.D, RRT, President, AARC  
Neil Clements, MD and Sonal Arora, MD of Tucson Pulmonology, P.C
- Golf Tournament ~ August 1st, 2007 at the El Conquistador Country Club. Registration is at 0630, Tee-time at 0730. The cost is \$75.00 which includes two drink coupons and lunch. A variety of prizes will be awarded. Any proceeds will support the Scholarship Program.
- Leadership Network Meeting ~ August 1st, 2007 6-10pm
- Sputum Bowl Competition~ Cheer on your favorite team!
- Luxury Accommodations ~ La Paloma Resort & Spa, Tucson. Special room rates available for \$109/night. Reservations can be made online [www.azsrc.com](http://www.azsrc.com)
- Continuing Education Credits ~ 13.0 CEU’s total (6.5/day)

**Inside this Issue of The Airways:**

2007 Arizona State Conference Information.....Page 1  
 AzSRC Lifetime Membership Status ~ Harry McAlpine.....Page 2  
 ‘A Right of Passage’ ~ Student to Clinician.....Page 3  
 AARC Asthma Education Update ..... Page 4  
 Arizona State Conference Registration Information .....Page 5

# AzSRC Lifetime Membership Status

## Harry McAlpine, RRT

*contributed by Ed Thomas, MA, RRT*

The Arizona Society for Respiratory Care Board of Directors will, on rare occasions, recognize someone within our membership who has contributed to the growth and development of our profession by presenting them with a “Lifetime” Membership status. At a Board meeting in April, a recommendation was presented to extend this special recognition to one of our distinguished members. The Board unanimously agreed to award Harry McAlpine, RRT Lifetime Membership Status.

Most people today know Harry from his current position as an instructor at Pima Medical Institute in Tucson for the past fifteen years. But Harry’s involvement in the field we know as Respiratory Care today started out as an Oxygen Orderly in 1964 under the training of Dr. Bill Miller and a few other early pioneers of our field. Harry recalls treating CF patients with IPPB (via PR-2) via mouthseal and nose-clips. And some of you thought Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilation was a rather new modality, yet, here was Harry performing this before Dr. Eagan wrote his first Respiratory textbook!

Harry knew that this new career he had encountered was going to grow, but growth was slow. He recalled his first AzSRC meeting (then known as the Arizona Society for Inhalation Therapy) in 1965 in which only 6 people attended the educational session in Phoenix. Later in the ‘60’s other respiratory pioneers came to Arizona to leave their mark including Jim Allen (former director at St. Joe’s in Tucson, St. Luke’s in Phoenix and former President of the AARC), Steve McPherson (noted respiratory author and director initially at TMC and later Northwest MC in Tucson), Vince Kracum (Mesa Lutheran), Marshal Varney (Maricopa County Hospital), Gil Davis (Good Sam) and Tom Hamrick (St. Joe’s Phoenix and former AARC President).

Harry reminisced about the first AzSIT state meeting in 1969 held in Phoenix attended by 50 – 70 members. The Society attempted to have educational meetings every month rotating between Phoenix and Tucson until the gas shortage in the early ‘70’s. Harry held these monthly educational meetings and credits his obtaining registry (then known as ARIT) to these meetings with other therapists at the time. At a time when some of us were attending (or wishing to have attended) Woodstock in New York, Harry passed his Registry Oral Exams in San Francisco in 1969 and was awarded Registry Number **752**.

Having started out at St. Joseph’s in Tucson and remaining for five years, Harry moved to Mercy Hospital in Nampa, Idaho as the department director for two years before returning to Tucson. After being Director of Respiratory at Tucson General Hospital for nearly twenty years, Harry moved on to PMI. Harry is a former president of the AzSRC and has been active on various committees throughout the years. He has been a member of the AARC since 1966 without a break in membership!

In his own humble manner, Harry is very honored in being awarded this recognition and feels there are many others who deserve it more than he. He encourages the AzSRC to promote more education opportunities as per our purpose stated in the Bylaws. He favors recognizing those members who have contributed to our profession and our organization. Without their dedication and efforts we would not be where we are today. Congratulations Harry!

# “A Right of Passage” ~ Student to Clinician

*by Denee Baxter, RRT*

As a student in a Respiratory Care program, I read the black and white print in a text book. As a new graduate entering the work force, I faced the black and white world of student versus clinician. My daily trials and tribulations as a student were “Did I read enough?”, “Did I study enough?”, and “Will I pass that test?”. We spend our years of education studying and preparing for that one big test. I thought that big test was the board exam, when in reality it was taking all of the information, skills and training and then applying them in the “practicing world of medicine.” Working as a clinician, I realized that decision making and critical thinking are of utmost importance.

Upon completion of my education, I was filled with momentum. Within three weeks of graduating I was registered. I was an eager graduate ready to embark on a new adventure. My education had prepared me well, but had it truly prepared me to apply what I had learned? Can someone really teach critical thinking and decision making? My board exams had tested for that and I passed, so it would seem the answer should be ‘yes’. But I wasn’t in school anymore. This next step into the clinical world would be different. But I was sure I was ready. I had been in clinical rotations and felt confident that it would be familiar, but it was also one of the biggest and best changes in my life.

I remember my first day on the job, post training and orientation. I was handed an assignment of my own, no preceptor, co-worker, or clinical instructor. It was all me. At that time the words of my teacher echoed in my head “You are professionals now.” For the first time I truly understood what she had meant. I took my assignment and headed out of the department, nervous but unafraid. Racing thoughts of “will I remember where everything is, will I get everything done on time?” passed through my mind. It was several days later when I realized what was staring me in the face the whole time. The realization hit me when I had to make a critical decision ALL ON MY OWN. At that instance reality struck and changed my perspective completely. All of the pieces just came together. The puzzle was complete. The question of was I ready for this no longer lingered in my mind. I had the answer and it was “YES!”

As a student you spend countless hours in the hospital environment exploring all facets of respiratory care. Each day you are paired with a different therapist with whom you work for the day. This does give you the opportunity to learn different techniques and approaches. You “see” a lot, and “seeing” is learning, but there is a considerable difference when you are the clinician. When you are a student you have the assistance and comfort of your therapist. You are in a protected environment with little or no accountability when compared to that of a clinician. As a student we follow the guidelines and professional expectations set forth by our school but there is no license to uphold and our preceptor is responsible for seeing that we follow hospital and department policies.

The transition from student to clinician is, in a sense, a right of passage. I have now worked in the field for nine months. Each day I am faced with new challenges in an ever changing field where it must become instinct to use what you have learned. I have acclimated to my new environment and feel very confident in my abilities as a respiratory therapist. My education provided me with every tool I would need to be successful; however I had to be able to use them. As I look back through my education, I realize that, for the most part, I learned everything I need to know. I was provided an excellent foundation of knowledge. I was “taught”, if you will, the critical thinking and decision making skills needed for patient assessment. But nothing can completely prepare you for this in a critical moment. That is a skill each individual achieves in his or her own time. As a clinician, I had to pull from I had learned within and apply it correctly.

In closing, I love being a Respiratory Therapist. Each day I look forward to applying my skills to new and different situations, while continuing to grow as a therapist. I embrace the challenge to excel everyday and hope that I have made a difference. My only frustration is that I feel respiratory therapists are not always allowed to practice the full scope of what they are taught in school and are licensed to do. I feel that this only hinders us as professionals. I know that slowly things are progressing, and practice by Respiratory Therapists is advancing, and I look forward to and am anxiously awaiting the change.

# AARC Asthma Education Update

Are asthma patients presenting at your facility more frequently than they should? Maybe they are in need of additional patient education!

Experts at the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program of the NHLBI agree that [asthma education is essential](#) for the successful management of this illness. By becoming asthma educators and earning the AE-C certification, you and your staff can . . .

- Help your patients live healthier more active lives
- Reduce emergency room visits
- Position yourselves as key members of the asthma management team
- Make you and your department more valuable to your employer (For example, you may be able to increase reimbursement for asthma educational services. In 2006 the CPT coding manual specified three codes that identify respiratory therapists as qualified asthma educators.)

All levels of the asthma care team, especially respiratory therapists, should be versed on the latest asthma education available. By taking the Asthma Educator Certification Preparation Course to prepare for the AE-C examination, you will become more knowledgeable in the care and treatment of your asthma patients.

## Asthma Educator Certification Preparation Course

**Dates:** July 15 - 16

**Location:** Reno, NV

**CRCE Credit:** 10.2 hours of CRCE for Respiratory Therapists and 10.2 Hours of CE Credit for Nurses\*

### Registration and Information:

[http://www.aarc.org/education/meetings/summer\\_forum\\_07/asthma\\_course.html](http://www.aarc.org/education/meetings/summer_forum_07/asthma_course.html)

**Hotel:** John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort Hotel, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV 89431. Phone: 800-648-1177 or 775-356-3300 (Reservations Only)

**NAECB:** <http://www.naecb.org>

If you are unable to attend, please consider attending:

### The 40th RESPIRATORY CARE Journal Conference:

**Mechanical Ventilation in Mass Casualty Scenarios**, July 16-17, 2007. John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV. Approved for 9.75 contact hours of Continuing Respiratory Care Education Credits (CRCE).

## REMINDER!!

### AzSRC is accepting nominations for:

- Department
- Educator
- Therapist of the Year

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2007 .

Forms are available online at  
[www.azsrc.com](http://www.azsrc.com)

## Check This Out....

New DVD produced by the Federal Government to train personnel on Respiratory Care in times of disaster:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2007/xtremepr.htm>

## Have Something to Share???

Please submit articles & information to:

Airways Editor 2007  
Michelle Williams, RRT  
602-508-0100 Ph.  
602-508-0051 Fx

*Dedicated to the Promotion and  
Education of Arizona's RCP's*

**We're on the Web!!!!**

**Azsrc.com**

# Arizona State Conference Registration Information ...Continued from Page 1

## Registration Form

(A separate form is required for each person attending)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation(employer/school) \_\_\_\_\_

Submit Registration Fees Only—AARC Membership must be paid at seminar  
Please make checks payable to the AzSRC.

Please check all boxes that apply

**AARC Member** # \_\_\_\_\_  **New Member** (will join on AARC on site)

Please check the day(s) you will be attending:

Thursday, August 2nd  Friday, August 3rd  Both Days

Registration Fee for Members or New Members\* One day \$75.00 Two days \$150.00

\*New members (will join on site) stop by the AARC booth before going to the registration booth.

Please write the CK/MO number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Member**

Please check the day(s) you will be attending:

Thursday, August 2nd  Friday, August 3rd  Both Days

Registration Fee for Non-Members: One day \$155.00 Two days \$230.00

Please write the CK/MO number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Students**

Please check the day(s) you will be attending:

Thursday, August 2nd  Friday, June 24  Both Days

Registration Fee for Students: One day \$40.00 Two days \$80.00

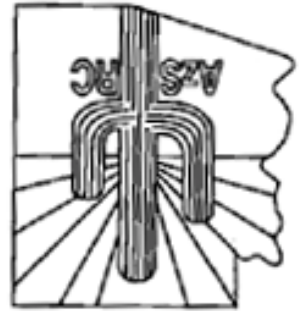
*No late fee on student registrations*

Please write the CK/MO number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Registration Forms should be postmarked no later than July 23, 2007**  
**All registration fees after July 23, 2007 will be charged an additional fee of \$20.00**  
**Please add this to your registration fee.**  
**No refunds will be issued on registrations posted after July 23, 2007.**

Mail this form and payment to:  
Pima Medical Institute  
AzSRC  
Attention: J. Bodzioney  
3350 East Grant Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Thank You to our Vendors, Sponsors  
and Attendees.  
*You are Truly Appreciated.*



***2007 Arizona State Conference***

***August 2-3, 2007***

***Westin La Paloma, Tucson, AZ***

***\*Golf tournament August 1, 2007***